

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

RSC-01 DRC-01 SIL-01 LAB-06 /057 W

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R 281051Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4222

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PASS COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTIO, NL

SUBJECT: IMPENDING CLOSURE OR SALE OF SINGER BUSINESS

MACHINES COMPANY IN NIJMEGEN

REF: HAGUE 3615, 3863, 3951; STATE 177948

1. SINGER BUSINESS MACHINES HAS NOW ASCERTAINED THAT NO OTHER SINGER DIVISION IS INTERESTED IN TAKING OVER NIJMEGEN PLANT. THUS ENTIRE EMPHASIS NOW IS ON RECRUITING ANOTHER ENTERPRISE TO ACQUIRE FACILITY. GON HAS OFFERED, SUBJECT TO CONCURRENCE OF SBM AND LOCAL LABOR UNIONS, TO CONTRIBUTE GRANT OF TWO MILLION GUILDERS (ABOUT ONE MONTH'S PAYROLL) IF SINGER WILL AGREE TO KEEP PLANT IN FULL OPERATION FOR AT LEAST TWO MONTHS WHILE THIS RECRUITMENT EFFORT PROCEEDS. LOCAL SINGER REP (VICE PRESIDENT BROWN) HAS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED SMB ACCEPTANCE AND IN FACT HOPES TO KEEP PLANT OPERATING ON AT LEAST PARTIAL BASIS FOR ABOUT FOUR MORE MONTHS TO PERMIT DRAWDOWN OF PARTS INVENTORY.

2. IN ADDITION TO OFFERED CASH INFUSION, GON IS PARTICIPATING IN SEARCH FOR NEW INVESTOR. EMBASSY IS HELPING IN SEVERAL WAYS INCLUDING ORGANIZATION OF BRIEFING VISIT TO PLANT BY REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN HAGUE. WE HOPE USDOC IS STRONGLY PURSUING EFFORT DESCRIBED

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IN STATE REFTTEL.

3. LOCAL PRESS, INCLUDING AT LEAST THREE NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS, CONTINUES TO FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY BUT HAS NOT YET BEEN UNDULY CRITICAL OF SBM. GON HAS BEEN ASSISTING SBM IN RESTRAINING UNION MILITANTS, BUT POTENTIAL FOR MAJOR FLARE-UP, WITH ANTI-AMERICAN AND ANTI-MNC OVERTONES, REMAINS SIGNIFICANT.
TANGUY

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